



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/153,838	09/15/98	WILS	F ST96016-US

005487  
ROSS J OEHLER  
RHONE-POULENC RORER INC  
500 ARCOLA ROAD MS-3C43  
COLLEGEVILLE PA 19426-0997

HM11/1123

EXAMINER	
KETTER, J	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

1636

2

DATE MAILED: 11/23/98

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.  
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

OFFICE ACTION SUMMARY

- ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ This action is FINAL.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 D.C. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire THREE month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☒ Claim(s) 11 is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 12-16 AND 23-26 is/are rejected.
- ☒ Claim(s) 6-10, AND 17-22 is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- ☐ All ☐ Some\* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
- ☐ received.
- ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of Reference Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES -

Art Unit: 1636

**NOTICE TO COMPLY WITH REQUIREMENTS FOR PATENT APPLICATIONS  
CONTAINING NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCES AND/OR AMINO ACID SEQUENCE  
DISCLOSURES.**

The nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosure contained in this application does not comply with the requirements for such a disclosure as set forth in 37 CFR §§ 1.821-1.825 for the following reasons:

A copy of the "Sequence Listing" in computer readable form has been submitted. However, the content of the computer readable form does not comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.822 and/or 1.823, as indicated on the attached copy of the marked-up "Raw Sequence Listing."

Applicants are **REQUIRED** to provide a substitute computer readable form (CRF) copy of the "Sequence Listing", a substitute paper copy of the "Sequence Listing", as well as an amendment directing its entry into the specification, and a statement that the content of the paper and computer readable copies are the same and, where applicable, include no new matter, as required by 37 CFR 1.821(e) or 1.821(f) or 1.821(g) or 1.825(b) or 1.825(d).

For questions regarding compliance with these requirements, please contact:

For Rules Interpretation, call (703) 308-1123;

For CRF submission help, call (703) 308-4212; and/or

For PatentIn software help, call (703) 557-0400.

Art Unit: 1636

See the attached Notice to Comply, also setting forth the requirements as set forth supra, a copy of which notice must be returned with Applicants' response.

Claims 1-5 and 12-16 provide for the use of ceramic hydroxyapatite column chromatography, but, since the claim does not set forth any steps involved in the method/process, it is unclear what method/process applicant is intending to encompass. A claim is indefinite where it merely recites a use without any active, positive steps delimiting how this use is actually practiced.

Claims 1-5 and 12-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed recitation of a use, without setting forth any steps involved in the process, results in an improper definition of a process, i.e., results in a claim which is not a proper process claim under 35 U.S.C. 101. See for example *Ex parte Dunki*, 153 USPQ 678 (Bd.App. 1967) and *Clinical Products, Ltd. v. Brenner*, 255 F. Supp. 131, 149 USPQ 475 (D.D.C. 1966).

A sole step of "using" a component fails to define the actual process step, and thus is equivalent to a "use" claim.

Art Unit: 1636

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371© of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

Claims 23-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Woodard et al.

(A) or Horn et al. (B).

The claims are drawn to highly purified plasmid DNA.

Woodard et al. teaches at column 1, that plasmid DNA needs to be highly purified to remove CsCl and small contaminants, and that the disclosed methods achieve this. At column 2, first full paragraph, and the Examples at columns 6 through 11, use of pure water ultimately to elute the DNA, free of chaotropes, is set forth. Thus, the plasmid DNA resulting from practice of the method of Woodard et al. would be pure, and thus anticipate the instant claims.

Horn et al. teaches, in the Examples, highly purified plasmid DNA preparations which are of pharmaceutical grade.

Certain papers related to this application may be submitted to Art Unit 1805 by facsimile transmission. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notices published in the Official Gazette, 1156 OG 61 (November 16, 1993) and 1157 OG 94 (December 28, 1993)(see 37 CFR §

Art Unit: 1636

1.6(d)). The Art Unit 1805 Fax number is (703) 308-0294. NOTE: If Applicant *does* submit a paper by fax to this number, the examiner must be notified promptly, to ensure matching of the faxed paper to the application file, and the original signed copy should be retained by Applicant or Applicant's representative. (703) 308-4242 or (703) 305-3014 may be used without notification of the examiner, with such faxed papers being handled in the manner of mailed responses. Applicants are encouraged to use the latter two fax numbers unless immediate action by the examiner is required, e.g., during discussions of claim language for allowable subject matter. **NO DUPLICATE COPIES SHOULD BE SUBMITTED** so as to avoid the processing of duplicate papers in the Office.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James Ketter whose telephone number is (703) 308-1169. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:00 AM-5:30 PM, and on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the Examiner are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, George Elliott, can be contacted at (703) 308-4003.

James Ketter

November 19, 1998



JAMES KETTER  
PRIMARY EXAMINER